



# NY-VIA

## New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance

130 Creamery Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

### New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance Supports

### *Revised Trichloroethylene (TCE) Indoor Air Action Levels*

#### HISTORY OF NEW YORK STATE'S INDOOR AIR STANDARDS FOR TCE

A document from the NYS Department of Health in 2003 listed the range of potential criteria for long term exposure of trichloroethylene (TCE) in indoor air from 0.2 to 4 micrograms per cubic meter (mcg/m<sup>3</sup>) of air and then sets 5 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> as the indoor air *guideline*. In 2005, the NYS DOH adopted a matrix for evaluating residential indoor air that lists values for mitigation of TCE vapors ranging from 0.25 to 5.0 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> depending on subslab concentrations. As a response to public outcry about the matrix, the NYS DOH convened an expert panel in August of 2005 to comment on the use of this matrix. NYS DOH rejected the panel's recommendation that the standard be set between 0.1 and 1 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> of indoor air. In 2006, NYS Senator Thomas Libous wrote to the NYS DOH requesting that the NYS standard be set between 0.016 and 0.02 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> of air. The NYS DOH has been unresponsive to requests to lower NYS indoor air standards.

#### TCE INDOOR AIR STANDARDS IN OTHER STATES

Of eight states that list TCE standards on the Internet, all have TCE standards lower than New York's guideline (see attached chart). New Hampshire and Delaware have the lowest TCE action level set at 0.02 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> of air. Several of these states have set the action or target levels at the screening level. If New Hampshire or Pennsylvania can detect the gas (i.e., at the detection level), it is mitigated.

#### APPLICATION OF NYS INDOOR AIR GUIDELINES FOR TCE

The community action groups in this Alliance have found that the NYS Indoor Air guidelines in the matrix are not applied uniformly in pollution cases. The screening levels appear to be different in different communities and the action levels vary significantly. In Hillcrest (Town of Fenton) NY, mitigation of TCE vapors was done down to 0.14 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> whereas in Endicott NY a standard of 5 mcg/m<sup>3</sup> was applied.

#### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

**The New York -Vapor Intrusion Alliance strongly supports the introduction of legislation to adopt trichloroethylene indoor air standards to be set at the detection level using the most accurate measurement devices available. NY-VIA also strongly supports that the standards be applied uniformly across New York State.**

#### Data From Internet search on other states TCE standards:

State	TCE standard * (micrograms per cubic meter indoor air)
New York	Up to 5.0
New Hampshire	1.1
Rhode Island	0. 41 proposed action level
Colorado	0.8 -1.6
Indiana	0.12
Delaware	0.022
Pennsylvania	0.18
Kansas	1.42
Connecticut	1.0

\*levels based on 1 in a million excess cancers (standard for EPA exposure risk)

Data based on information available on the Internet as of January 2008

Contact: Debra Hall, [debraduncan@optonline.net](mailto:debraduncan@optonline.net) or Bruce Oldfield, [oldfield\\_b@sunybroomed.edu](mailto:oldfield_b@sunybroomed.edu)

#### Founding Board

##### **Debra Hall, Co-Chair**

Hopewell Junction Citizens for  
Clean Water & Air

##### **Bruce Oldfield, Co-Chair**

Hillcrest Environmental  
Action Team

##### **Mike Barry**

Victor New York TCE

##### **Carol Meschkow**

Concerned Citizens of the  
Plainview-Old Bethpage  
Community, Inc.

##### **Laura Haight**

NY Public Interest  
Research Group

##### **Ken Deschere**

Regina Deschere  
Ithaca South Hill  
Industrial Pollution

##### **Bill Barell**

Hopewell Junction Citizens for  
Clean Water & Air

##### **Sue Hughes**

##### **Julie Rizzo**

United Neighbors Improving  
Tomorrows Environment

##### **Stephen Boese**

Healthy Schools Network

##### **Don Teeling**

CARE-Ft. Edwards

#### Technical Advisors

##### **Lenny Siegel**

Center for Public  
Environmental Oversight

##### **Dave Palmer, Esq**

NY Lawyers for the  
Public Interest